

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IOE-00 NEA-07 SIL-01 LAB-01

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6871

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3134

LIMDIS

PASS LABOR FOR HOROWITZ AND ILAB

PASS COMMERCE FOR UPTON

S/IL FOR DALE GOOD

IO FOR PALMER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO, PLAB, IS

SUBJ: ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE AT INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS

REF: (A) GENEVA 2966, (B) GENEVA 3102

1. SUMMARY: ILO OFFICIAL IN COMMENTING ON REPORT
OF COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS
(REF A), SAID THAT EGYPTIANS FEAR ISRAELI COUNTER-
COMPLAINT IF ARABS LODGE COMPLAINTS AGAINST ISRAEL
IN NORMAL ILO INVESTIGATORY PROCEDURES (SEE PARA TWO
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BELOW). THE SAME OFFICIAL HAS ADVISED THE ISRAELIS
ON HOW TO RESPOND IN THE ILC COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF
CONVENTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. EGYPTIAN LABOR ATTACHE IN GENEVA HAS TOLD NICHOLAS
VALTICOS, ILO ADVISER FOR INTERNATIONAL LABOR STANDARDS,
THAT THE GOE WAS UNHAPPY ABOUT COMMENTS ON EGYPT IN

THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS REPORT CONCERNING THE CONVENTION ON FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION (87). THE GOE FEELS THAT THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS HAD BEEN TOO HARD ON THEM AND AS A RESULT OF ITS CRITICISM, EGYPT IS NOW SUSCEPTIBLE TO ISRAELI COUNTER CHARGES, SHOULD THE ARABS INITIATE AN ARTICLE 26 PROCEEDING AGAINST ISRAEL. VALTICOS REPLIED THAT CRITICISM OF THE GOE WAS LONG STANDING AND HAD BEEN REPEATED IN THE LATEST REPORT BECAUSE THE GOE HAD DONE ALMOST NOTHING TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION.

3. CONCERNING QUESTIONS PUT TO ISRAEL BY THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS, VALTICOS ADVISED ISRAELI AMBASSADOR HERE THAT THE ILC COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS WOULD PROBABLY DECIDE EARLY ON TO PURSUE THE QUESTIONS PUT TO ISRAEL BY THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS; THE GOI REPLY COULD BE ORAL OR WRITTEN; AND THAT VALTICOS' ADVICE WAS THAT THE GOI BE PREPARED TO RESPOND IN WRITING BECAUSE THIS WOULD TEND TO CONFINE THE DISCUSSION TO THE GOI TEXT AND TO LIMIT POLITICAL POLEMICS BY HOSTILE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

4. COMMENT: THE EGYPTIANS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN VERY FRANK IN EXPRESSING THEIR FEAR OF COUNTERCHARGES BY ISRAEL; THUS, THE FAINT HOPE IS NOW GONE THAT THE ARABS MIGHT DECIDE TO GIVE UP ON THE 1974 RESOLUTION AND TO START LEGITIMATE ILO PROCEDURES AGAINST ISRAEL. SORENSON

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